

Parents who know their children's teachers and turn off the television and help with the homework and teach their kids right from wrong, those kinds of parents can make all the difference. I know; I had one. I'm telling you, we have got to stop pointing our fingers at these kids who have no future and reach our hands out to them. Our country needs it, we need it, and they deserve it.

So I say to you tonight, let's give our children a future. Let us take away their guns and give them books. Let us overcome their despair and replace it with hope. Let us, by our example, teach them to obey the law, respect our neighbors, and cherish our values. Let us weave these sturdy threads into a new American community that can once more stand strong against the forces of despair and evil because everybody has a chance to walk into a better tomorrow.

Oh, there will be naysayers who fear that we won't be equal to the challenges of this time. But they misread our history, our heritage. Even today's headlines, all those things tell us we can and we will overcome any challenge.

When the earth shook and fires raged in California, when I saw the Mississippi deluge the

farmlands of the Midwest in a 500-year flood, when the century's bitterest cold swept from North Dakota to Newport News, it seemed as though the world itself was coming apart at the seams. But the American people, they just came together. They rose to the occasion, neighbor helping neighbor, strangers risking life and limb to save total strangers, showing the better angels of our nature.

Let us not reserve the better angels only for natural disasters, leaving our deepest and most profound problems to petty political fighting. Let us instead be true to our spirit, facing facts, coming together, bringing hope, and moving forward.

Tonight, my fellow Americans, we are summoned to answer a question as old as the Republic itself: What is the state of our Union? It is growing stronger, but it must be stronger still. With your help and God's help, it will be.

Thank you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 p.m. in the House Chamber of the Capitol.

Nomination for Commandant of the United States Coast Guard *January 25, 1994*

The President announced his intention today to nominate Rear Admiral Robert E. Kramek, USCG, to be the 20th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation.

"Admiral Kramek has served his country proudly for 33 years and has distinguished himself through his performance in a number of challenging assignments," said the President. "He has consistently demonstrated the strong

leadership ability the Coast Guard needs to remain the vital service that it always has been. I am confident that he will perform up to the high standards set by his predecessor, Admiral Bill Kime."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Bulgaria *January 26, 1994*

To the Congress of the United States:

On June 3, 1993, I determined and reported to the Congress that Bulgaria is in full compliance with the freedom of emigration criteria

of sections 402 and 409 of the Trade Act of 1974. This determination allowed for the continuation of most-favored nation (MFN) status and certain U.S. Government financial programs

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for Bulgaria without the requirement of a waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated Report to Congress concerning emigration laws and policies of the Republic of Bulgaria. You will find that the report indicates continued Bulgarian compliance with U.S. and inter-

national standards in the areas of emigration and human rights policy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
January 26, 1994.

Message to the Senate Transmitting Organization of American States Protocols

January 26, 1994

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the "Protocol of Washington" adopted on December 14, 1992, by the Sixteenth Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and signed by the United States on January 23, 1993, and the "Protocol of Managua" adopted by the Nineteenth Special Session of the OAS General Assembly on June 10, 1993, and signed that day by the United States. I also transmit for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the two Protocols, both of which comprise amendments to the Charter of the Organization of American States.

The Charter amendments of the "Protocol of Washington;" (a) incorporate a procedure for suspending the right of a Member State to participate in OAS policy bodies when its democratically constituted government has been overthrown by force; and (b) address the situation of extreme poverty in the hemisphere.

The Charter amendments of the "Protocol of Managua" are aimed at rendering the delivery

of OAS provided technical cooperation more effective and thereby giving practical effect to the Organization's efforts to eliminate extreme poverty. The Charter amendments would create a single Inter-American Council for Integral Development to replace the existing Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) and the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC).

Early and favorable action by the Senate on the "Protocol of Washington" and the "Protocol of Managua" would send a strong signal to other OAS Member States that the United States is firmly committed to strengthening the multilateral and institutional means for protecting and promoting democracy in the region and to addressing the problems of extreme poverty and integral development.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocols and give its advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
January 26, 1994.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Greece-United States Social Security Agreement

January 26, 1994

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security

Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433e(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement between the United States and Greece